

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

*Pelecocera tricincta* (Meig.) (Diptera: Syrphidae) in the Isle of Wight.—Whilst examining some hoverflies that I had collected over a number of years, my eye was caught by a specimen of once unfamiliar yet clearly distinct. Its huge antennal joint quickly identified it as *Pelecocera tricincta*. Reference to Verrall (1901), Coe (1953) and Stubbs and Falk (1986) showed it to be a very local little fly confined to Dorset, Hampshire and recently Surrey. My specimen, a female, was swept from a ride edge in Parkhurst Forest, Isle of Wight on 16.viii.74, and although not new to Hampshire *sensu lato*, was apparently new to the island, vice-county 10. On hearing of my identification my father Mr A. W. Jones said that he thought he had a specimen from the same place, and sure enough he has a male swept from a similar ride edge in Parkhurst Forest 4 years previously on 16.vi.70. (Incidentally he also has another specimen, a female, taken from a flowering head of *Hypochaeris radicata* (L.), Sherford Bridge, Wareham, Dorset, 21.vi.66.)

Despite a seemingly unusual locality for what is thought to be a heathland species, Parkhurst Forest still retains much of its previous (pre-Forestry Commission planting) heathland character. This is reflected by remnants in its present flora (A. W. Jones, Flora of the Isle of Wight, unpublished manuscript, 1967–1986) and, as demonstrated by *Pelecocera*, in its fauna.—Richard A. Jones, 10 Nunhead Grove, Nunhead, London SE15 3LY.

## REFERENCES

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 Stubbs, A. E. & Falk, S. 1986. *British hoverflies, an illustrated identification guide*, pp. 204–205. London, BENHS (2nd edition with supplement).  
 Verrall, G. H. 1901. *Platypetidae, Pipunculidae and Syrphidae of Great Britain*, pp. 461–463. London, Taylor & Francis (reprinted 1969, Faringdon, Clasey).

**A second British locality for *Aphis mammulata* Gimingham & Hille Ris Lambers (Homoptera: Aphididae).**—On 20 September 1986 I visited Cavenham Heath NNR, West Suffolk, in order to record the distribution and abundance of *Trichoermes walkeri* Förster (Homoptera: Psylloidea), as part of a long-term study of the life history and population dynamics of this gall-forming insect. *T. walkeri* forms simple galls at the margin of leaves of *Rhamnus catharticus* L. (Buckthorn), and since 1981 I have examined *Rhamnus* bushes at localities in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Huntingdonshire, West Norfolk and West Suffolk and taken samples of galled leaves for measurement and dissection. At Cavenham Heath car park (TL 757727) two bushes of *Rhamnus* were found, one of which was distinctive because of large numbers of the ant *Lasius fuliginosus* (Latreille) walking over the branches, twigs and foliage. Closer examination of the bush revealed that these ants were attending aphids of two colour forms, dark grey and orange, which they defended vigorously when disturbed. Subsequent examination of a sample of these aphids, using the excellent Handbook by Stroyan (1984), enabled them to be identified as *Aphis mammulata* Gimingham & Hille Ris Lambers. This is apparently a rare species in Britain because Stroyan gives the type locality, Eastleach Martin, on the Oxfordshire–Gloucestershire boundary, as the only known site. No other colonies have been found by me elsewhere during my studies of *T. walkeri*, though the Cavenham Heath colony has been re-found on the same bush on 30.vii. and 5.ix.87, and 10.vii. and 13.ix.88. *Aphis mammulata* is unusual because the females are a typical dark *Aphis* colour, while the males are orange during all instars (Stroyan, 1984). The fact that this aphid is attended by *Lasius fuliginosus* should also draw attention to its presence, and perhaps may assist the discovery of further localities. This would be of

interest in revealing the true status of the aphid, and possibly lead to the description of the early summer biology which is currently unknown — I. F. G. McLean, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

#### REFERENCES

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 Stroyan, H. L. G. 1984. Aphids — Pterocommatinae and Aphidinae (Aphidini). *Royal Entomological Society: Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects II*, 6.

**The spread of *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) to Hampshire.**—The first record of this marshland species in Britain was at Woodwalton Fen in 1951. According to Goater (1986), it subsequently spread to the fens of Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire and the coasts of Lincolnshire, Suffolk, Essex and Kent and in 1983 as far north as south-east Yorkshire. A specimen from Nottinghamshire was exhibited at the 1987 Annual Exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society (Sterling, 1988). These all indicate that the spread of the species was restricted initially to wet areas in the eastern part of the country. The only record outside this area was a report that one had been taken at Waterlooville, Hants. VC11 in 1973 in Goater (1974). Waterlooville is near to the coast and as no more were reported, this specimen cannot be explained in terms of the extension of the British colony, but as a casual specimen.

On the night of 24/25.vi.88, I took a specimen in an M. V. light trap being run at the edge of the River Test marshes at Leckford, Hants. VC12. I then had a telephone call from Mr A. H. Dobson informing me that he had taken a specimen at the trap run at the Hampshire College of Agriculture, Sparsholt on the night of 20/21.vi.88. Sparsholt spans VC11 and VC12 and although the trap was inside VC11 and not in a marshy area, it is in fact only 4 miles from Leckford. I then received a further specimen from Dr R. J. Hornby for confirmation of identity. This had been taken in his garden M. V. light at East Woodhay, Hampshire VC12 on the night of 5/6.vii.88, the garden being beside a stream and adjacent to a very wet alder wood and an ungrazed marshy meadow.

Traps have been run on a fairly regular basis at these sites over at least the last few years without this species being seen previously and three records over a period of 16 days in the current year would indicate that the moth has very recently established a breeding area or areas in the northern part of Hampshire. The British foodplant has not yet been established.—Col. D. H. Sterling, 'Tangmere', 2 Hampton Lane, Winchester, Hants. SO 22 5LF.

#### REFERENCES

- Goater, B. 1974. *The butterflies and moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*. Faringdon.  
 Goater, B. 1986. *British pyralid moths*. Colchester.  
 Sterling, M. J. 1988. *Annual Exhibition. Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 1: 31.

**Mass emergence and apparent 'perching' behaviour of *Notozus panzeri* (F.) (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae).**—Rubytail (or 'cuckoo') wasps are parasitoids of solitary aculeates. And although their hosts may nest closely within a small area giving the appearance of a colony, rubytails themselves are not noted for their abundance or mass occurrence. I was therefore more than a little surprised when I recently found *Notozus panzeri* in large numbers.

On 25 June 1988, my father A. W. Jones and I were walking along the bare sandy tracks of Ambersham Common, West Sussex. At about 3.30 in the afternoon, my